

**Many Strong Voices
Planning Meeting
20-21 March 2006, Ottawa, Canada**



Proceedings prepared by J. Eamer, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Participants:

Paul Crowley, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

John Crump, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Joan Eamer, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Terry Fenge, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

Guoyi Han, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Grete Hovelsrud, Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO)

Tiina Kurvits, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Tanya MacGregor, Canadian International Development Agency

Isabel Martinez, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP-GPA)

Rich Powell, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

Ambassador Enele Sapoaga, Association of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Dean Solofa, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Cletus Springer, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

Tana Stratton, Foreign Affairs Canada

Leslie Whitby, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Note: the meeting started with a **project** called Many **Small** Voices and over the course of two days this was transformed to a **programme** called Many **Strong** Voices

Day 1 Morning: Background and Perspectives from Participants

UNEP/GRID-Arendal - GA (Joan Eamer, John Crump, Tiina Kurvits)

Background to Many Strong Voices

- GA started working on the concept of a climate change project linking Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Arctic about 18 months ago, initially with interest from Sweden and UNEP. This linkage between the Arctic and SIDS had also been made by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and SIDS and had been highlighted by leaders, including Sheila Watt Cloutier of the ICC. Since that time both the Arctic and SIDS have been in the news because of observed impacts and new science related to climate change.
- Needs were identified for education, training and awareness in SIDS at COP XI. Also relevant to this programme from COP XI is the discussion and development of framework for SBSTA – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice on the Programme of Work on Adaptation.
- GA first developed a full proposal and looked for funding – this was too pre-defined in its scope, goals and products and, taken as one package, was too big to obtain funding for. We realized that we needed to take a step back and work with partners to build the programme from the bottom up, defining the needs and building components of a programme. This approach was approved by UNEP who are providing some seed funding in 2006, and by Canada, who is providing the funding for this meeting and related start-up work.

UNEP/GRID-Arendal (GA)

- GA is a Norwegian foundation founded in 1989 by Gro Harlem Brundtland as part of Norway's contribution to furthering the goals of UNEP. The motto of GA is "Environmental Information for Change" and our business is analyzing and synthesizing information to meet demands for training and information. We work at the interfaces—environment and security; environment and development; environment and poverty; environment and vulnerable sectors of society—and in the context of promotion of international cooperation.
- GA is based in Arendal, southern Norway, with offices in Ottawa, Stockholm and Geneva, and with four programme areas: 1) Polar, representing UNEP on Polar matters, including through Arctic Council; 2) Capacity-building, through global programmes and work in eastern Europe and central Asia; 3) UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, services related to continental shelf definition in developing nations; and 4) UN University: Global Virtual University, electronic course development and delivery.

Many Small Voices Roundtable, COP XI Arctic Day, 6 Dec. 2005, Montréal, Québec, Canada

- GA organized and funded this event:
 - To focus attention on links between Arctic and SIDS and
 - To launch a project linking vulnerable regions and stimulate education, training and public awareness amongst their inhabitants so they will be able to influence the debate on mitigation and adaptation.
 - Roundtable participants: Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme; Sheila Watt Cloutier, International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference; Taito Nakalevu, Climate Change Adaptation Officer, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; Karen Kraft Sloan, Canada's Ambassador for the Environment (Moderator)

- About 100 people attended including representatives of the Marshall Islands and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre from Belize (CCCCC). Sheila Watt Cloutier spoke about the link between the Arctic and SIDS. Taito Nakalevu of SPREP talked about impacts being felt in the South Pacific and relocation of communities. He linked impacts to development issues and the link to poverty. Klaus Töpfer said UNEP is behind the Many Small Voices project, and he talked about the strong links -- similarities, strengths and challenges faced by the regions. Dr. Töpfer later referred to Arctic Day in his address at the high level plenary session.
- The roundtable attracted considerable media interest. The story ran on Reuters and was picked up by the LA Times, Boston Globe, Sydney Morning Herald, Toronto Star, etc. as well as in the French media (Europe1) and the BBC. It was picked up by news services in the South Pacific.

“If anyone has any doubt that climate change is underway they need only listen to the many small voices from this region--the early warning system of the globe The Arctic is comparable to other vulnerable places like the small island developing states of the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and the Pacific.”

Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, COP XI Plenary Session

Inuit Circumpolar Conference - ICC (Terry Fenge, Paul Crowley)

- ICC covers four countries (Canada, US, Denmark/Greenland and Russian Federation). Inuit have been reporting for several years about changes in Arctic and were heavily involved in the Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), through US funding and support. The ACIA assessment and process were community based; a lot of traditional knowledge was involved. This led to an expectation that it would lead to policy changes.
- ICC has found that it is difficult to get the government of Canada to raise Arctic concerns on the floor of the Climate Change COPs, and has realized there are different ways to do this.
- Two years ago ICC representatives spent time with the Environment Minister of Jamaica and the Ombudsman from Tuvalu and started a dialogue; at this point we started thinking about a relationship between the Arctic and SIDS that would move the science and policy agenda forward, and began to speak about this with GRID Arendal.
- Canada has a huge way to go on adaptation, especially in the North. We need to learn a lot about adaptation.
- A problem for the Arctic that it is in the developed world; UNFCCC is set up for developed and developing parts of the world – the Arctic gets subsumed into the greater policies of the countries. For this reason it is important to connect with representatives of other vulnerable regions. In the Arctic, our own governments have a hard time accepting that we are vulnerable.
- The experience with ACIA gives us a platform to speak from and we have been asked by other regions about how to get similar work done.

Alliance of Small Island States – AOSIS (Ambassador Enele Sopoaga)

- Appreciate information on impacts on Arctic – and impacts are already being seen on the islands.

- Just came back from Tuvalu from workshops on impacts of climate change, where unusual flooding occurred on the main island and capital – the sea was coming from underneath and pouring sea water into main town. This is happening in other countries: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Indian Ocean.
- Want to emphasize the urgent need for mitigation; adaptation cannot be an alternative.
- Montreal (COP XI) was good; but we need to engage Australia and the US. Our approach is we want to see things happen on two fronts (mitigation and adaptation).
- Adaptation has been disappointing. A lot of reports and assessments on impacts on SIDS have been done, but nothing has been done to help adapt to changing conditions. This is partly because of the difficulty accessing resources under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – there are difficult criteria. But we appreciate the support from bilateral donors.
- Agree with the importance of linking impacts – but don't duplicate what is happening, especially in area of awareness-raising, where much work is being done. Build on the basis of good experiences – link impacts and do further work on outreach. Use and build on existing processes.

"If this project is going to be successful, it has to aim to have as much impact as possible on countries that need to reduce greenhouse gases as soon as possible."

Ambassador Enele Sopoaga, Vice-Chair, AOSIS

The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities – GPA (Isabel Martinez)

- The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, under the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, is the global focal point for SIDS in UNEP. As such, this office coordinates activities such as UNEP's contributions to the Mauritius international meeting and reports back to the UNEP Governing Council on SIDS related decisions (<http://www.sids.unep.org/html/international.html>).
- Feedback on the initial proposal of the Many Strong Voices project was provided by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office. This Office has also helped in providing relevant contacts and sources of information.
- In addition, UNEP's Regional Offices (namely, Asia and Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean) and the relevant Regional Seas Programmes (West and Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Wider Caribbean) are responsible for assisting SIDS in each of SIDS concerned regions (South Pacific, AIMS and Caribbean).

Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI (Guoyi Han)

- SEI is interested in being a partner on this project.
- SEI is an independent, international research institute set up by Sweden in 1989 to follow up on the Brundtland report and the 1972 Stockholm Conference (UN Conference on the Human Environment). SEI's mission is to support decision-making and induce change towards sustainable development around the world by providing integrative knowledge that bridges science and policy in the field of environment and development.

- Our research on climate change focuses explicitly on development and evaluation of adaptation strategies and options; as well as developing and demonstrating practical means to link climate change adaptation to development planning. One example is the project on behalf of the Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC) project, in which we developed and implemented a training course on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation. Similarly, we have participated in the UN Development Programme GEF project on national communications and capacity building in Central America, using the Adaptation Policy Framework (APF).
- SEI is home to the International Geographical Union's Task Force on Vulnerability. We are building an international programme to demonstrate and compare vulnerability assessments targeted to reveal the 'hot spots' of global change vulnerability and adaptation. Our Sida supported Poverty and Vulnerability Programme is in its second phase of implementation, with a central goal to contribute to an improved understanding of the vulnerability of poor and marginalized people to environmental change.
- SEI has recently become a UNEP collaborating centre on climate change adaptation.



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – INAC (Leslie Whitby)

- In Canada there are two departments looking at strategies for adaptation – Environment and Natural Resources Canada. INAC works on issues related to aboriginal organizations and northern development, where there are similarities to developing countries.
- Arctic Canada has 100,000 people spread over 43% of Canada. The region is changing, with land claims and devolution of authority. Strengths of the Canadian North: good communications networks and a capacity to be creative and find innovative solutions. This project is an example.
- Adaptation in the north is sadly overlooked. Ninety-nine per cent of what is called adaptation work is really looking at impacts – we have not come to grips with adaptation.

Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo –CICERO (Grete Hovelsrud)

- CICERO was founded by royal decree in 1990 as an independent research centre associated with the University of Oslo, to conduct research and provide information on complex climate issues.
- There are three groups:
 - Climate change science and translating policy into international agreements (looking at post-Kyoto)
 - Mitigation and costs – what are costs and benefits to countries and internationally; how do you take international agreements and translate these to national policy; costs of alternative sources; incentives for changing sources of fuel
 - Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation – looking at impacts of climate change for vulnerable regions around the world

- Some of the research questions and interests related to vulnerability: How do we know when a country is vulnerable? For example, Norway may not be on a national level, but may be at a regional level. How do you deal with vulnerability and adaptation across scales? Interested in issue of local knowledge and how to incorporate it into adaptation work. How do you assess vulnerability in relation to other stressors, such as globalization?
- Voices has a bottom up approach, which is needed for adaptation research. It has good comparative possibilities, a local focus and deals with adaptation. It is right on the mark for International Polar Year and should be included in the implementation plan for IPY. This project could teach us how to translate adaptation into policy.
- Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions (CAVIAR) is an IPY research project employing a strict methodological framework so that comparisons can be made. Now submitting proposals to national governments – could link with Voices.
- Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is interested in Voices and may provide some funding to CICERO to develop a research component. Interested in highlighting the linkages between Arctic and SIDS at the Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in May (CSD 14).

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre – CCCC (Cletus Springer)

- Climate change work in Caribbean started around 1990. Concern began to grow based both on what was being experienced and from scientific results. This led to planning for adaptation to climate change under GEF starting in the early 90s. This work helped to convince policy makers that the impacts of climate change were very real and that we needed to take action. A number of projects led to the initiative to mainstream adaptation measures – Mainstreaming Adaptation to Global Change (MACC) Project, funded through GEF.
- The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), at the University of Belize, was established in 2000 by Heads of Government. It functions as a network, linking regional institutions, with limited core budget and facilities. It is self-financing and is expected not to be a burden on funds of CARICOM (Caribbean Community). Italy is providing the first five years’ operational costs
- Dr. Ken Leslie is the Executive Director. The most recent initiative is the Special Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change, which has links to Voices. This has GEF funding for St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, and Dominica as pilot projects because they have the most developed policy frameworks of all Caribbean countries.
- One component is ecosystem management: design priority adaptation measures; implement adaptation; build capacity to strengthen MEAs. Trends and capacity to manage multi lateral environmental agreements. The MEAs put an enormous burden on the SIDS. We are looking at improving this through a single reporting framework for the MEAs.
- We can bring lessons we have learned from 20 years of adaptation initiatives.
 - Adaptation takes time. We worked at GEF continuously to get that message across. You



- cannot take it so far and leave it—you have to carry forward on a longer term basis.
- Implementation of adaptation measures requires very strong and sustainable community support. There are some communities of interest who are still on the periphery, e.g. the insurance community. So building community support is not just communities near hotspots, but also stakeholders.
 - Sustainability strategies are part of building climate change resilience. We are trying now to review all of our framework strategies and look at the gaps to develop a regional sustainability strategy. National strategies are important in this.
 - Strengthening capacity to reduce climate change risk also strengthens measures to manage land degradation – we are not talking at cross purposes; climate change adaptation fits in with other resource management issues, including natural hazards management. Natural resources management systems need to be strengthened. Climate change will exacerbate problems we are having with water, for example, and will have more disastrous effects on countries without well-developed infrastructure.
- Part of the challenge is how many voices do we bring into this choir and how harmonious do they sound?
 - The three battalions of science, community and policy must always march together.
 - One of the first things we need to consider is that we don't make our actions necessarily project specific. We need not be limited by the Voices project. We should find ways to agree to collaborate not just within this project. To do this we should strike some broad, general MOUs that commit us to collaborate in sharing information and resources. For example, the ACIA will be of immense use to the Caribbean region in testing EIA methodologies.

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme – SPREP (Dean Solofa, Ambassador Enele Sopoaga)

- Current activities: SPREP is putting together a Pacific Adaptation Framework to guide UNDP, to come together over the next couple of months. Countries in the South Pacific will need SPREP assistance in preparing second national communications to UNFCCC. SPREP has worked on relocation for communities, Vanuatu this year and one coming for Papua New Guinea. SPREP is building capacity for making data and analyses available in the South Pacific.
- SPREP has 23 island members, also US, Australia, New Zealand and France. Japan is a funding source but not member. The organization is broken into two groups: 1) island ecosystems, looking at biodiversity conservation issues; 2) Pacific futures program, including MEAs and regional coordination mechanisms, monitoring and state of environment reporting, climate change and ozone, sustainable development, and waste management.
- SPREP has a capacity building focus, working with national teams and mobilizing support from bilateral and multilateral donors. SPREP is mostly assisting countries at a high level, for example organizing ministerial meetings and providing legal advice for different COPs.

- There is still a need to advocate more at the international level for the situation faced by SIDS – both on technical and governance issues. Reporting for MEAs is a very big challenge, with often only one or two people to do all the reporting – this is where regional arrangements come in. SPREP is successful, but needs more help.
- New initiatives are underway with faith based institutions. Churches have their own networks for education, with their own schools and colleges. SPREP was invited by the World Council of Churches to present on climate change in 2004, and we are now looking to see what opportunities exist for initiatives coming from this partnership.

Discussion Points

- We need to consider this project as potential follow up to ACIA, and make use of leverage for funding. Specifically, there could be potential for a GEF project in relation to ACIA follow up. This would need to go through Arctic Council, and we should aim to bring something to the next Ministerial meeting. This would assist with bringing information from the Arctic to other parts of the world, which has also been raised as a goal by Norway. We discussed the possibility of having a presentation from the SIDS at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.
- The SIDS meet prior to COPs and take common views. This coalition with common views is important, but the Arctic states differ a lot in view points among themselves and differ from SIDS – how can we use this programme to bring more common ground? Our relations are often defined by our negotiating history, and science and reason become submerged – no COP has provided the ability to bring common understandings. One thing we can consider as part of this programme is making progress outside of negotiations – finding ways to meet outside of COPs and build consensus that will then help the COPs to move forward.



UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice on the Programme of Work on Adaptation – SBSTA (Tana Stratton)

- The SBSTA, a five year programme of work, is developing well. We now have a draft programme with a sensible structure and a practical approach. UNFCCC does not have the capacity to implement adaptation at the local level. The programme needs to be a catalyst, reaching out to regional organizations, linking to international processes, and pinpointing what needs to be done at the regional level. We are redefining the way the SBSTA does work, moving towards building partnerships at the local level.
- A series of regional workshops will be held to look at developing solutions. The programme of work is focused on 9 action areas over next three years:
 1. *Methods and tools for adaptation planning*, which are much less developed than tools for impact assessment
 2. *Data and observations*, focusing on target audience and main stakeholders relating to assessing climate impacts and vulnerability and preparing for adaptation
 3. *Climate modeling, scenarios and downscaling*, focusing on applications for regions and specific uses; often you get demands for each country to have their

- own model, but this is not practical – but every country needs access to good regional scenarios.
4. *Climate related risks and extreme events*, including sharing experience in climate change risk assessment and management; communicate that adaptation is not something new, use the current tools for natural hazard management;
 5. *Socio-economic information and analysis*, including assessments of vulnerability and scenarios, analysis of costs and benefits; these are the pieces that help go from describing physical impacts to adaptation planning, and must be at a mix of scales;
 6. *Adaptation planning and practices*, drawing on experience and recognizing the need for a broad sharing of knowledge, including traditional knowledge. This will include lessons learned and examples, and be a forum for exchange of information, including local and traditional knowledge.
 7. *Technologies for adaptation*
 8. *Economic diversification*, aimed at increasing economic resilience and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors for different countries.
- Relevance to Many Strong Voices: we should focus on practical adaptation measures and the lessons learned to go back to the international process. Canada has been stressing the importance of engaging in adaptation at the level that it matters. This is also important as follow up to the ACIA, and connecting with other parts of the world, whether it is through the Arctic Council or not.

Discussion Points

- SBSTA meetings: Under 1/CP.10 (UNFCCC decision on programme on adaptation) there is a meeting for SIDS. The Caribbean SIDS and Asia and Pacific SIDS are meeting. These regional workshops are to provide a forum for regions to get together and share information, but mainly not the Annex 1 nations (they would need to be invited). There was an expert meeting in Vienna last week and a SBSTA meeting coming up in May.
- Canada has been interested in supporting a workshop in the Arctic in the second week of September. There is a potential to hold a Voices workshop with this. Having this side to side with SBSTA would be beneficial. Also a number of expert meetings are planned around this programme of work.



Day 1 Afternoon: Vision for Many Strong Voices

Tanya MacGregor provided an overview of the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) work related to climate change adaptation, including work with SIDS and the Caribbean. CIDA is interested in directing adaptation projects on-the-ground, something fairly unique for donor countries. Funding has been extended to the end of this fiscal year, but they are now in an uncertain period with the Canadian government change.

Most of the afternoon was spent on brainstorming ideas for the programme's vision, goals and operating principles, incorporated into the Programme Document (pp 15-18).

Discussion Points

- For the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the primary concern is reduction in greenhouse gases – adaptation is secondary to this. We need to aim big in terms of mitigation. ICC is looking for ways to bring the Arctic into UNFCCC, where it is currently not named as a vulnerable region. This points to the need to do more in terms of raising consciousness about the importance and urgency of taking action. They would like to see activities where the vulnerable regions come together and are strategic in pushing for bigger changes at the international level.
- An area to work in is linkages between the knowledge that people hold in the regions with high tech observing. Damocles, a European Union International Polar Year project is looking at how useful scientific data are for communities, and working with data modelers to meet the needs of communities. CCCCC has an agreement with Japan to develop models of climate change effects in the Caribbean.
- The view in the SIDS is that there is a lack of appreciation for the need to do work in the SIDS. Projects have been identified and not implemented, even though national programmes have been developed. If the five year programme under SBSTA just calls for more and more assessment and studies it will further increase fear and desperation in regions that are vulnerable.
- Much of the work on MEAs is outside of the mainstream of decision making in the countries and often does not find its way into budgets. This is a gap between science and action; implementation will only happen when this work is “mainstreamed”. This work is not about science, it is the ramifications of what the science says. But there will be a continuing need for science and research. Our knowledge is raw and needs to be brought down to the practical level. In the Caribbean Islands we can make general statements about the effects that sea level rise will have, but we don't know the economic and social implications and how species are affected. We need to continue to work on science and accelerate work on implementation; one will feed into the other.
- We should track of the progress of the SBSTA and get on lists of organizations with expertise to contribute, as this has value for outreach.
- The Voices programme also has to take advantage of the work programme under Article 6
- We need to have as a principle, and make it clear to others, that we do not duplicate but work through and support ongoing initiatives, and that this work must be community driven and with country ownership
- ICC perspective: we are working on this to do a better job in going to global processes to get better decisions made that will preserve Inuit culture. Picture for Many Strong Voices:
 - a programme proposal with a five year timeframe



- a consortium that brings together partners linked by formal agreements, including the Saami, RAIPON and ICC as core partners
- for overall focus, translating science into policy and decisions as the umbrella. Under that, components: traditional knowledge, adaptation, mitigation, political action. Under each of these, we have case illustrations, and other programme components, such as twinning communities in Arctic and SIDS.
- Structure of the consortium: things only work if someone assumes responsibility. UNEP/GRID-Arendal should be at the centre and be the body that is connecting the various parts. This will be crucial to the success of the programme.
- We discussed the relative emphasis on mitigation and adaptation. Participants have differing views on the primary focus or degree of emphasis, but there was consensus that both were to be part of the programme and that the programme document should reflect this.

Day 2: Planning the Programme

The main work in Day 2 was the development of the components for the Programme Document (pp 15-18). Below are some additional notes and action items.

1. Many Strong Voices Consortium

- We discussed the benefits of making the consortium a formal arrangement.
- **ACTION** - GRID should write to the participants at this meeting and additional identified partners, indicating that we have met, enclosing the results of this meeting, and asking for agreement in principle to be a part of the consortium by a certain date. MOUs are a next step to be considered.
- The consortium needs a steering committee.
- **DECISION** – the steering committee is the group (non-government) who are represented at this planning meeting, with GRID-Arendal as coordinating agency; and we will ask the UNFCCC secretariat if they wish to join (as they were unable to attend but wrote indicating strong support).
- Other key people and organizations, including government agencies, to be kept in the loop, informed and involved.
- Possibly in the future we would add an advisory board/committee to formalize the involvement of others – this will be looked at further
- Discussion on goals
 - raising global and regional awareness of climate change and its impacts on vulnerable regions;
 - exchanging information and building alliances to address the challenges of climate change in these regions
 - conducting collaborative and community-driven research on adaptation;
 - developing on-the-ground projects
 - joining forces to build community and regional capacity to influence global actions on reducing greenhouse gases and regional and local policies and programmes on adaptation;
 - giving a stronger voice to vulnerable regions

2. Workshop Plans

- Preferred date would be prior to the Climate COP XII (November 6-17). The target date is late September or early October. Preference would be with the Canadian SBSTA workshop if funding allows.
- Volunteers to host the meeting: UNEP Global Programme of Action, The Hague, Netherlands; Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belize; suggestion of Arctic Canada at the location of the SBSTA meeting (Iqaluit, Yellowknife or Whitehorse)
- Target would be for 40-50 people.
- Ideas for the workshop:
 - Identify projects
 - Review the programme document (developed at this meeting) and develop an implementation: this should be a multi-year plan with actions identified, with leads and schedules.
 - Presentation and discussion of research

ACTIONS:

- Scope out the costs for the different locations, planning on three days plus a field trip day.
- Develop a workshop plan, circulate this around the steering committee and others for comment, and use it for fund raising
- In the timeframe for development, plan to be able to circulate in advance materials such as background papers and draft plans in order to make the best use of the time and to enable representatives to get input from their organizations.

3. Discussion about other Programme Components

(Many of these components have been built into the programme document., pp 15-18)

- Overview of the state of knowledge of climate change, impacts, adaptation – needed to help people be effective in climate change negotiations.
- Best practice manual for adaptation – what is working, what is transferable – is there any potential for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding?
- An analysis of the state of climate change negotiations by Arctic and SIDS organizations and states – possibly UNDP would have an interest in this, or possibly foundations.
- Demonstration Project(s) in Arctic and SIDS
- Communications Plan
- Youth component to the programme
- Research plan for comparative research on vulnerability and adaptation



- Meetings and opportunities: this is a partial list of upcoming opportunities for presentations and participation:
 - ICC Assembly
 - SBSTA Workshop
 - COP XII
 - CSD XIV – May, Norway wants to announce this. Focus is climate change, energy, tourism (**ACTION**: follow up material for Norway – **DONE**)
 - Arctic Council (**ACTION**: Discuss with Norway)
 - Arctic Parliamentarians – (**ACTION**: presentation – **DONE**)
 - Article 6 workshop for SIDS prior to COP XII
 - G8
 - UNEP Governing Council meetings
 - IUCN Congress
 - SPREP annual meeting – September, New Caledonia

4. Discussion on Funding

- Norway has expressed an interest in funding CICERO to conduct research and potentially outreach for Voices. Potentially funding of the workshop could be included in this.
- Funding for workshop (and other components): brainstorming on ideas for sources that require follow-up:
 - Check with Canada (INAC) for opportunities to tack the workshop on to the SBSTA workshop, which would reduce the travel costs. Are there opportunities also for Canadian funding if the two are connected?
 - Asian Development Bank
 - Japan – through World Bank – has a project to promote research between the Caribbean and Japan.
 - UNEP internal funding (some funding for project development costs has been obtained this year by GRID-Arendal)
 - UNFCCC Secretariat – while assembling workshops leading up to the COP meetings
 - CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)
 - International Development Research Centre – Canada
 - IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development) Northern Leaders programme (internships for 6 months for Northern Canadian youth to work in international organizations).
 - NORAD (Norwegian development agency)
 - National Research Councils for the research component
 - Enhance the current Norway-Canada bilateral agreement and other bilateral arrangements
 - Opportunities from the AOSIS meeting with insurance companies in Belize
 - Private sector – e.g. insurance sector, petroleum, Sweden Bank Fund, ALCAN,
 - EU – (concerns were expressed about the difficulties of acquiring funding – the investment in time may be not worth it)
 - Commonwealth Secretariat
 - GEF – perhaps through the small grant facility
 - Foundations – for example, McArthur Foundation, Pugh
 - National Geographic
 - IPY – Canada and Norway outreach funding, potentially Sweden,
 - Asian Pacific Network
 - Greenland, Denmark
 - UNDP

- New Zealand and Australia (SPREP Climate Change funding)
- Materials we need soon for fundraising, reporting back to our own organizations (**ACTION**):
 - public concept paper
 - framework document from this meeting
 - working background document
 - briefing note
 - power point presentation
 - pamphlet or small card with web address
 - CD-ROM
 - Website, including :
 - links to organizations and related projects and resources like ACIA.
 - Sections on news, resources, Google breaking news, password-protected part for posting documents
 - Email Group for the steering committee and an email distribution list for the broader group we want to keep informed
 - Photos for use in various products. Ask for these through the email group and make them accessible through the website

5. Where We Go From Here

First Steps (currently funded by Canada)

- This planning meeting, including the follow up actions
 - Materials to send out from this meeting
 - Framework document for this consortium stating vision, mission, goals, actions, operating principles and assumptions (**DONE**)
 - Proceedings with action items identified. (**DONE**)
 - Letter asking for commitments. (**ACTION**)
 - SBSTA workplan (**DONE**)
- Completion and distribution of working background document (a draft of which was circulated at the meeting) (**ACTION**)
- Website – with tools for communication and posting documents, and an email group. These are to be established as follow up to the meeting. (**ACTION**)

Next Steps (**ACTIONS**)

- Develop plan and secure funding for the workshop – potential funding sources: Norway, GEF, Canada, UNFCCC, Sweden, Nordic Council of Ministers, talk about at the Arctic Parliamentarians, National Science Foundation, Marine Research Institute in Japan, Australia and New Zealand, East-West Centre in Hawaii. We need a concept paper for the workshop to use to raise funding. Each person on the steering committee is to try to find the funding for travel expenses for people in their areas. Organizing costs needed also. Cost out the Hague, Belize and Iqaluit for 50 to 60 people.
- For making decisions and keeping in touch – conference calls, email group (but limit the emails – keep them brief). Scheduled conference calls for the steering committee.
- Develop a timetable and list of tasks
- Set up the email group for steering committee (**DONE**) strongvoices@googlegroups.com
- Acquire letters of commitment
- Provide periodic updates on the programme

Many Strong Voices

Programme Document

March 2006

Prepared by UNEP/GRID-Arendal following the first planning meeting in
Ottawa, 20-21 March 2006

Vision

Ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in the face of climate change.

Goal

To bring together the Arctic and Small Island Developing States regions through a consortium of organizations to take collaborative and strategic actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Objectives

1. **Collaborate and build capacity in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States** so that people in these vulnerable regions have a stronger voice in:
 - 1.1. negotiating international and national measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - 1.2. developing, strengthening and implementing adaptation strategies at the local, national, regional and international levels.
2. **Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions** in general and on the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in particular:
 - 2.1. globally, to highlight the need for immediate mitigation action
 - 2.2. in the vulnerable regions, to empower people in these regions to respond to climate change
3. **Increase understanding of needs and solutions, and take practical measures on adaptation** by:
 - 3.1. developing community-driven comparative and integrated research on the socio-economic and natural conditions that shape vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change.
 - 3.2. undertaking practical, on-the-ground projects on adaptation in coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States
 - 3.3. delivering targeted products to meet demands for information, and tools to assist people in addressing climate change issues
 - 3.4. identifying and promoting mechanisms by which developed countries can provide funds and resources to address the climate change adaptation needs of coastal communities in the Small Island Developing States and the Arctic.

Operating Principles

- The Many Strong Voices consortium recognizes and responds to: 1) the urgent need for global action on cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and, 2) the urgent need for adaptation to climate change in coastal communities of the Arctic and Small Island Developing States.

- The participants in Many Strong Voices use this consortium to build alliances and make progress on mitigation and adaptation both within and outside of formal processes, always striving to strengthen international, regional and national processes and organizations taking action on climate change.
- The programme builds on good experience and does not duplicate work done through other programmes and projects.
- This is a long-term programme, initially working under a five-year plan.
- Many Strong Voices is community-driven but works across scales, taking into account the global nature of climate processes and the multiple scales of mitigation and adaptation responses.
- Many Strong Voices engages in policy-relevant integrated research and pulls together the results of research and monitoring based on science and traditional knowledge in order to support decision-making. Mutual respect by scientists and holders of traditional knowledge, promotion of good dialogue, and the integrity of research, are paramount.
- Adapting to climate change relies on maintaining healthy, functioning ecosystems and is in step with strengthening natural resource management.

Actions (working document)

Objectives	Actions
<p>1. Collaborate and build capacity in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States so that people in these vulnerable regions have a stronger voice:</p>	<p>Build the consortium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and strengthen the Many Strong Voices consortium through the steering committee and the coordinating office at UNEP/GRID-Arendal • Develop programme website and email group • Host a workshop in autumn 2006 to fully develop the consortium • Prepare materials about Voices that can be adapted for a range of venues (pamphlet, posters, PowerPoint presentations) • Develop a youth component to the programme (possibly through existing networks including: the Arctic Youth Network and its connections with SIDS; Inuit Circumpolar Conference Youth Council; UNESCO network of youth; IPY youth network) <p>Take measures to strengthen the voice of Arctic and SIDS in support of the UNFCCC (Article 6) goals on public participation in addressing climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation of Arctic and SIDS representatives in regional and international fora • Track the implementation of national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation down to the local level • Identify barriers to people having a strong voice • Examine lessons learned from successes and failures of Arctic and SIDS participation in processes at all scales

Objectives	Actions
<p>1.1. in negotiating international and national measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>1.2. in developing, strengthening and implementing adaptation strategies at the local, national, regional and international levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold meetings for stakeholders in advance of negotiations • Develop strategies to improve effectiveness in international processes • Exchange knowledge and information • Produce “State of Negotiations” report • Host side events, make presentations and provide displays at COPs and relevant international meetings • Deliver research results, comparative assessments and synthesis studies, including: assessment of the state of knowledge and identification of gaps; comparative analysis of capacity of institutions to adapt; and, assessment of interactions of multiple stressors in the two regions. • Analyze institutional arrangements for public participation and develop means for making improvements • Produce report on best practices on adaptation within context of this programme • Meet with stakeholders and experts (including insurance sector, civil engineers, infrastructure designers) and conduct field tours • Look at work that has been done to address mainstreaming of adaptation; assess what it takes to mainstream (including through UNDP-led initiatives)
<p>2. Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions in general and on the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in particular:</p> <p>2.1. globally, to highlight the need for immediate mitigation action</p> <p>2.2. in the vulnerable regions, to empower people in vulnerable regions to respond to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a communications strategy • Deliver products and services to meet the goals of UNFCCC (Article 6) for awareness raising on climate change and its effects

Objectives	Actions
<p>3. Increase understanding of needs and solutions, and take practical measures on adaptation by:</p> <p>3.1. developing community-driven comparative and integrated research on the socio-economic and natural conditions that shape vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>3.2. undertaking practical, on-the-ground projects on adaptation in coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States</p> <p>3.3. delivering targeted products to meet demands for information, and tools to assist people in addressing climate change issues</p> <p>3.4. identifying and promoting mechanisms by which developed countries can provide funds and resources to address the climate change adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on traditional coping strategies to climate variability and extremes and on how this extends to coping with climate change • Conduct research on the causal structure of vulnerability (the underlying processes and factors) with a community focus • Conduct scoping exercises in the communities to identify the drivers of change (exposures and sensitivities) that people see as important (climate change in relation to other stressors, opportunities and constraints), leading to an assessment. • Develop a set of comparative examples for illustration purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop demonstration projects • Twin communities to raise awareness and work on adaptation • Organize exchanges of people, such as students, interns, people working in regional and municipal organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a synthesis of the large scale climate-related changes and processes that are of particular significance to the Arctic and SIDS. This is needed to connect the global to the regional and local scales. • Undertake specific projects to meet demands for accessible information, toolkits, manuals and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct strategic analysis for each country and for international processes. Examine alternatives, e.g. trust funds, endowments, mechanism through insurance companies, fund like that for carbon-neutral travel, donation of air miles • Run an “Opportunities Workshop” (bringing in expertise on funding mechanisms) to develop new mechanisms, including capacity and expertise, not just funding. This could be in conjunction with a relevant meeting, e.g. SBSTA workshop